

Democracy's Opportunity

(From The Ohio State Journal, May 24.)

A plea for disarmament by agreement, if possible, and by example, if necessary, closed a speech in which William Jennings Bryan, thrice candidate for president on the democratic ticket, and for 30 years a leader in the Democratic party, brought a message of hope and cheer to 500 members of the Jefferson club at their picnic at Olentangy Park yesterday afternoon.

"If anyone can preach the gospel of hope it is the man who has been resurrected so many times that death seems commonplace," Bryan said in reference to his appearance.

Leading directly up to his subject, "Democracy's Opportunity," Bryan mentioned five mediums, now occupying the public mind, through which the Democratic party might rise to success. In point of order named they are a national bulletin for the dissemination of unbiased political information, reduction of taxes a proper aligning of monopolies and disarmament as a feature of future world peace.

"The most crying need of the country today is the maintenance of impolluted channels of information, so that the public may know what is going on at Washington," he said.

Bryan suggested a tentative plan for his proposed national bulletin.

NOT PLEASED WITH OHIO

Turning to the issue of prohibition Mr. Bryan said:

"The Democratic party cannot avoid the part it has had in bringing prohibition to this country. I am proud of its part. But I am not proud of the part it has played in Ohio."

With shaking voice Mr. Bryan shouted:

"I hope you people here will cut loose from the brewers and distillers and represent the homes of the state."

NO EXCUSE FOR MONOPOLIES

Discussing monopolies, Mr. Bryan said that where there was any excuse for the existence of one it should be taken over by the government. Plutocracy, he said, was the breeding place of revolution.

Mr. Bryan's chief hopes for the future of the Democratic party lies in the matter of taxation, he said yesterday. And it is there, he said, that he expected to see a new leader of the party arise.

He went as close as possible to prophesying the downfall of the Republican party, for a time at least, in the matter of taxation.

FARMER DEFLATED

"You don't have to talk to the farmer about deflation," he said. "The farmer is deflated already. He is getting less or no more for his products today than he got 10 years ago. And yet I paid 20 cents for an egg this morning on a dining car. I know where I could buy any number for 20 cents a dozen. And don't forget that the farmer is one-third of the vote of the country. How is he going to feel toward the Republican party in a year or so?"

"Already the Democratic party is making itself felt, although controlling less than one-third of congress," he said.

"If the Democrats take a firm stand for the rights of the common man, the man who pays for wars and fights them, too, then they cannot help but go back into power with a bigger landslide than they went out with," he said.

PEOPLE AGAINST ARMAMENTS

Turning at last to the subject of peace, Bryan said that he felt the problem would not be as troublesome as taxation, stating that the people of the country were solid against heavy armaments.

"We have just come out of one war 'prepared' and we don't want to be 'prepared' for another one," he said.

It was at this point that Mr. Bryan unfolded his idea of the stand the United States should take on disarmament.

BRYAN'S BELIEF

"I believe, and there are a few others who believe with me, that we should stand for disarmament by agreement if possible and by example if necessary.

"By this I do not mean that we should scuttle every ship we have right now. What I mean is that we should start with a 10 per cent reduction and call attention of the world to the fact that we are doing so in the interest of society,

Then if the governments of the world will not follow our lead, the peoples of the world will overthrow their governments and follow us in disarmament."

Bryan was the guest while here of Dr. Henry Miller and H. L. Boyd. He was late in arriving at the Neil House, where Jefferson club members met, and late in leaving for Zanesville, where he spoke last night. Mr. Bryan stopped in at the Statehouse to pay his respects to Governor Davis.

Those who had not seen the Democratic leader in some time remarked on his youthful appearance. He seemed to have lost considerable weight and to have achieved it very becomingly. His voice was as clear in tone as it ever has been.

MR. BRYAN AT COLUMBUS

(Columbus, Ohio, Citizen, May 24.)

William Jennings Bryan's heart is no longer "in the grave," to which place he, himself, consigned it following disappointments at the Democratic national convention in San Francisco last year.

At least, if his heart is still there, he doesn't show it.

The commoner "came to town" Monday with his oldtime campaign smile, same old campaign hat and an old-fashioned political speech, with 1921 "trimmings," to attend the rally and outing of the Jefferson club in Olentangy Park Monday afternoon at which he is the headliner.

Bryan displayed plainly that he is still full of political enthusiasm and launched into a comprehensive discussion of modern issues as he addressed the outing crowd on "Democracy's Opportunity."

Discussing the question of leadership in his party, Bryan in an interview said:

"When bosses ruled, the definition of leadership was quite different from the Democratic idea of leadership. The Democratic idea is that the leader thinks WITH the people but a little bit ahead. But the bosses' ideas of leadership is that the leader thinks FOR the people and does not care how far the people are behind or where they are.

ISSUES IMPORTANT

"Issues make campaigns and raise up leaders. You never can tell very far ahead what the paramount issue will be or who will be the leader. If you will pardon reference to myself, my experience shows how difficult it is to look very far ahead in politics. The Chicago convention made me the leader of the party and I held that position for many years, not because of any personal reasons, but because I took the people's side and, because they knew me and regarded me as an exponent of their rights and interests, my influence continued.

"Anyone can secure influence in this way if he has two things: First, the people must know him; second, they must trust him.

"The fight in Washington may make some issue paramount and during the discussion of that issue some man may become known and win the confidence of the people. There is a very important fact that is not fully understood—that is, that leaders derive more strength from a great cause than they give to it.

WHERE STRENGTH LIES

"One man can do but little compared to the multitudes that act with him, but the fact that the multitudes know him gives him credit beyond his merit and, therefore, strength beyond that which he has actually earned."

MR. BRYAN IN OHIO

It is a quarter of a century since William Jennings Bryan contracted the habit of coming to Ohio to make speeches. He has been coming at frequent intervals through the years. He will be here again today and will speak at a political picnic in this city. Probably no other man has spoken to so many people in the nation. He has spoken on many subjects, usually subjects of controversy. If he has aroused intense opposition he has also won the love of millions of Americans. He has an enormous following, a great army proud to follow the banner he carries, to espouse the cause he advocates. His somewhat erratic political career, his many defeats, have not disrupted his army of followers.

He has been active in other fields, many of them. He had won more than local fame as an attorney when he took up politics. Denied his great ambition, he has been a forceful advocate and exerted a powerful influence on public thought. Advocating reforms that roused ridicule, he has seen much he has preached

made the law of the land. He has been a great leader for social reforms that contemplate betterment for mankind. He has been a great speaker for the churches, could have been a leading minister, has been a great lay evangelist. Not from politics alone has his strength come. It has come from the uprightness of the man, his clean life, his moral integrity, his high sense of right that he has never failed to declare and make plain.—Columbus, Ohio, State Journal.

A COUPLE OF COMMENTS

William Jennings Bryan, the Great Commoner, was in our esteemed midst, Monday. The passing years are writing their lines upon him, he has become softer and more genial of carriage, but is still the matchless orator. And what a wonderful man he is. He hasn't had any circumstances of great fortune, or high political position to give him circumstance, but he is indisputably the most conspicuous, the most influential private citizen the country has ever known. And of him let this be said in all candor and truth, he has always stood out boldly for that which he honestly esteemed would make the world better, and he has never compromised his principles for political advancement.—Portsmouth Times.

Now that's fine and it's the truth. And with the statement made, we are in accord with our esteemed contemporary. But now listen to this from the same paper:

"Everybody is till talking about what a fine man and wonderful speaker Bryan is. Yes, it was always his fortune to get much praise and few votes."

Now that's what we call a bonehead statement and in variance with the facts. In every campaign, something like 6 millions of citizens have voted for Mr. Bryan. Do you call 6 millions a few votes? And mark you this—had it not been for the preying, predatory, profiteering interests of the country who used their ill-gotten gains to purchase thousands and thousands of votes against him, he would easily have been elected President more than once. Yes, Mr. Bryan has had much praise to which he was justly entitled and at the same time, with a unpolluted election, has commanded more votes and sincere supporters than any other man in the history of parties or politics. And here's another pointer. These same millions are still his friends and loyal followers. And finally, we just want to add, that these same friends of Mr. Bryan have no sort of use for the so-called Democrat who sneeringly refers to the Great Commoner as a "has-been."—Circleville, Ohio, Democrat and Watchman.

BRYAN

(Columbus, Ohio, Citizen, May 23.)

On a sultry July day 25 years ago there flashed over the wires the story of a wonderful speech. The Democratic national convention at Chicago was in a deadlock. Then arose a young man from Nebraska, an ex-congressman he was, but little known, and thrilled the delegates with the now famous "crown of thorns, cross of gold," defense of the free coinage of silver and the double standard of monetary value. Quickly followed the nomination of the orator for the presidency.

He was defeated by McKinley at the November election. Four years later, in 1900, the Nebraskan was again chosen, unanimously, by his party convention as its national standard bearer. Again followed defeat, as before, by McKinley.

In 1904 the Democrats put Alton B. Parker, champion of the single or gold standard, at the head of their ticket, with the result that they suffered, at the hands of Roosevelt, the worst defeat in history up to that time.

Four years later the "Great Commoner" was again drafted to lead his party against Taft. Again defeat for the "Orator of the Platte."

Another four years elapsed and we find the Nebraskan, still great in the councils of his party, dominating the national convention of the Democrats and forcing the nomination of Woodrow Wilson who, after his election, made his champion secretary of state.

Nine years have fled since that famous fight at Baltimore and—

Today Columbus entertains William Jennings Bryan, thrice a formidable candidate for the greatest office within the gift of a free people, once the premier statesman of his land, still the idol of millions of Americans, one of the world's greatest orators, chosen by his local admirers as the Moses to lead them out of the wilderness by pointing out "Democracy's Opportunity."